Railways have taken a number of steps to improve catering services in running trains. These include standard meals served in hygienically packed casseroles, use of branded products and use of- eco-friendly material for serving beverages, curd etc. Special drives are launched from time to time to ensure this.

As regards thefts of passenger belongings, the reported cases are registered and investigated by the Government Railway Police, which function under the control of the State Governments concerned.

Unauthorised hawking and vending in the trains and railway premises are punishable offences. Railways conduct surprise and regular checks with the help of Government Railway Police and Railway Protection Force to curb the menace.

Clearance for Rail Projects

264. SHRI C.O. POULOSE: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) the details of rail projects received for clearance during the last two years and the current year, State-wise; and

(b) the action taken on each project?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI DIGVIJAY SINGH): (a) and (b) Proposals for railway projects are received from State Governments, Representatives of the Public, Chambers of Commerce, etc. by the Railways. These are examined in detail and are processed for approval, as per the requirements of traffic and safety, keeping the availability of resources in view.

Clearances of the appropriate authorities have been obtained for the following railway projects in the last two years. (i.e. 1997-98 and

1998-99) and the current year (1999-2000). Their location as well as present status are also given below:—

SI. No.	Project	State	Status
1.	Lucknow-Kanpur Railway Electrification	Uttar Pradesh	Work is in progress.
2.	Tambaram-Chengalpattu Railway Electrification	Tamil Nadu	Estimate has been sanctioned. Work is in progress.
3.	Electrification of Barasat-Hasnabad	West Bengal	Detailed estimates have been sanctioned. Further work being taken up.
4.	Kurla-Thane 5th and 6th Line (Phase-II)	Maharashtra	Estimate sanctioned.
5.	Yashwantpur-Tumkur Doubling	Karnataka	Arrangements are being made for taking up the work including acquisition of land.
6.	Madurai-Rameshwaram	Tamil Nadu	Work on earthwork and bridges has been taken up-
7.	Katakhal-Bairabhi Gauge Conversion	Assam, Mizoram	Preliminary arrange-ments have been made to start the work.
8.	New Jalpaiguri-Siliguri-New Bongaigaon	West Bengal and Assam	Contract for earth-work and bridges over 150 Kms. has been awarded and work is in progress.

SI. No	Project	State	Status
9.	GM Loco project investment	Uttar Pradesh	The work has been taken up.
10.	Agra-Etawah *via* Fatehabad New Line	Uttar Pradesh	Final Location Survey for 49 Kms. from Bhandi end has been completed. Preparation of Plans and Estimates has been taken up.
11.	Deogarh-Dumka New Line	Bihar	Final Location Survey has been completed. Process of land acquisition has been started.
12.	Raichur-Gadwal New Line	Karnataka	Final Location Survey and land acquisition are being taken up.
13.	Bidar-Gulbarga New Line	Karnataka	Final Location Survey and land acquisition are being taken up.
14.	Macherla-Nalgonda New Line	Andhra Pradesh	Final Location Survey and land acquisition are being taken up.
15.	Koderma-Ranchi New Line	Bihar	Final Location Survey has been taken up. Process of land acquisition will start thereafter.

SI. No	Project	- State	Status
16.	Dharmavaram-Penukonda Doubling	Andhra Pradesh	Work is in progress.
17.	Chennai Beach-Tambaram-Chengalpattu Gauge Conversion	Tamil Nadu	Work is in progress.
18.	Diphu-Karong New Line	Assam, Nagaland, Manipur	Tender for final Location Survey is in process. Work will be started once the land is made available by the State Government.
19.	Bogibheel Bridge on Brahmputra: New Line	Assam	Detailed investigation and Final Location Survey has been taken up by RITES.
20.	Punatamba-Sirdi: New Line	Maharashtra	Final Loction Survey is being taken up.

SI. No.	Project	State	Status
21.	Angul-Sukinda Road: New Line	Orissa	Work is in progress.
22.	Gauge Conversion of Surendranagar-Bhavnagar-Dhola-Dhasa-Mahuva section with extension to Pipavav	Gujarat	Papers for land acquisition for new line portion from Rajula to Pipavav have been submitted to the State Government. Modalities of partial private funding for the project are being worked out.
23.	Mudkhed-Secunderabad: Gauge Conversion	Maharashtra, Andhra Pradesh	Work has been taken up in 1st Phase from Mudkhed to Nizama-bad (96 Kms.)
24.	Luni-Munabao: Gauge Conversion	Rajasthan	Work is in progress on earthwork and bridges on entire section.

Double-laning of Tirupati-Rcnigunta Rail Line

265. SHRI RAMACHANDRAIAH RUMANDLA: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government propose to lay double line between Tirupati and Renigunta on a priority basis;

(b) if so, the allocation made therefor; and

(c) the target for completion of the project?